

**Chesapeake Forest Citizens Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting**  
**Wednesday, July 24, 2002**  
**Worcester Room, Commons Building, Salisbury University**

**Committee Members:**

Jan Graham, Sierra Club  
Ellen Lawler, Salisbury University  
Steven C. Goss, Maryland Sportsmen Association  
Cecelia Dennis, Rural Legacy  
Russell Brinsfield, Mayor/Vienna & Director, Wye Research Center  
Peter Petersen, representing Jeff Leitner, The Fund for Animals  
Lori Lilly, UMES  
J. Lowell Stoltzfus, MD Senate  
Peter Alexander, Glatfelter Co.  
Keith Underwood, Environmental Consultant  
Natalie Chabot, Dorchester County Tourism  
Skip Jones, Parker Forestry

**Absent:**

Sandy Coyman  
Delegate Rudolph Cane  
Annette Cottman

**MD DNR Staff:**

John F. Wilson, Resource Planning  
Mike Schofield, Chesapeake Forest Project Manager  
Holly May, Chesapeake Forest, Forester  
Kenneth Jolly, Assistant Director, Forest Service

**Public Attendees:**

Neil Sampson  
Kevin Stebbings  
Gary Simmons  
Paul Ericksson  
John Moulis  
Cal Lubben  
Arthur Egolf  
Rachel Egolf  
Steve Causey  
Bill Loffer  
Bill Cheesman  
Larry Walton  
James Remuzzi  
Kenny Rees  
Jim Mullan  
Leo Smith

John Hess  
David Ceikot  
Larry Beauchamp  
Col. Louis Murray (ret.)  
Jennifer Allen

### **Meeting Summary:**

The meeting started with the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) approving the minutes from the June meeting. The June meeting minutes will be posted on the Chesapeake Forest website at [www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/Chesapeakeforests](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/Chesapeakeforests).

Michael Schofield presented the Chesapeake Forest Manager's Report, which included a brief description of the most recent ID Team meeting and their role in the development of the Sustainable Forest Management Plan (SFMP) for the Chesapeake Forest. Mike also presented the CAC with an overview of the monitoring plan and its goals. The first Chesapeake Forest timber sale (a first thinning, about 124 acres) was completed on the DNR-managed half of the forest, bringing in income. Hunt club renewal letters have also been sent out, and payments are currently being received.

Michael Schofield presented the CAC with an overview of the Chesapeake Forest budget, including the goals and objectives, sources of income, and costs (please see PowerPoint presentation handout). One of the eight primary objectives listed in the SFMP for the Chesapeake Forest states: Maintain an economically self-sufficient forest that pays for the cost of management, operation, restoration, and public use of these lands, plus makes a positive economic contribution to the natural resource future of the Eastern Shore. This will be accomplished through the sale of products and the sharing of revenues with the affected counties under Maryland law. Russ Brinsfield recommended that the term "operating costs" under the monitoring program be replaced with a more appropriate term such as "research costs." It was explained that in order to become certified by an accredited third-party, the Chesapeake Forest must have a monitoring plan in place and be committed to that monitoring. Therefore, monitoring was considered an operational cost. Mr. Brinsfield also asked how this can be a sustainable project with help from General Funds, and that perhaps all "unnecessary" items be determined and cut from the budget. Senator Stoltzfus asked why the cost for staffing was so high. Staff explained that those costs were determined for full staffing of the Chesapeake Forest, which includes a total of eight positions.

Neil Sampson, President, Vision Forestry, LLC, presented the CAC with long-term budget projections for the Chesapeake Forest. Several CAC members requested hard copies of Mr. Sampson's presentation.

The group voiced several concerns before the meeting was opened to public comments. Mr. Brinsfield questioned how to set priorities for costs during lean years. It was determined that the conditions of the gift from The Conservation Fund to the State would be upheld during such times. Mr. Underwood asked the CAC about the possibility

of appointing a CAC chairperson. Mr. Underwood nominated Jeff Leitner (not present) as chair and offered his assistance. Jan Graham seconded the nomination. Senator Stoltzfus requested that the CAC be allowed some time to consider the need for a chairperson. John Wilson suggested that the group consider clearly defined roles and responsibilities for a possible chairperson before the next meeting.

John Wilson provided the Committee with a brief summary of a series public use meetings held in April of 2000 (see handout). Senator Stoltzfus asked whether the public's recommendations were voted on or spontaneous, and John Wilson responded that they were spontaneous. Steven Goss asked if the State of Maryland is liable for hunt clubs on Chesapeake Forest Lands. John Wilson replied that the clubs must have their own insurance and that the State of Maryland also has insurance. The question was asked, what percentage of state land is already open to public hunting, and the answer was approximately 80 percent. Mr. Brinsfield asked if 80 percent of State lands were open to public hunting, is there really a demand to open up an additional 29,000 to public hunting?

John Wilson asked the CAC for recommendations for any additional criteria/comments for public use. CAC members had no additional comments.

#### **Public Comment Period:**

Arthur Egolf, a local logger, asked if the number of acres of timber in production on Chesapeake Forest Lands would remain stable in order to sustain local economies. Both Mike Schofield and John Wilson responded that there will be fluctuations in these acreages according to forest management needs, but that supporting local loggers/economies is a goal of the sustainable forest management plan.

A Somerset County resident was concerned about the lack of tax payment (from revenues on Chesapeake Forest Lands in Somerset County) by the state to the county, especially with the recent county tax increase. DNR staff responded that they would check into this matter and make sure all monies are paid to the counties.

Steve Causey questioned the recent increase in general hunting license fees and what department/division receives the fee increases. John Wilson responded that the license fees go directly to the wildlife program, not to the Forest Service or Chesapeake Forest funds.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, August 28 at 6:00 pm at the Wye Research and Education Center. The August 28<sup>th</sup> meeting will focus primarily on the Sustainable Forest Management Plan.

Meeting minutes are available on the Chesapeake Forest website at [www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/chesapeakeforests](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/chesapeakeforests). If you have any questions regarding the minutes, please contact John F. Wilson at (410) 260-8412 or by email at [jfwilson@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:jfwilson@dnr.state.md.us).